

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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APPROVED BY EUR/CE:RDDAVIS

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H:RAFLATEN

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PM/SAS:RWSMITH

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P 232156Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 147300

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: NORTHROP ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND

REF: (A) BERN 2571, (B) BERN 2530, (C) BERN 2401

1. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM GROSSENBACHER THAT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO ACCEDE TO HIS REQUEST (PARA 2, REFTEL B; PARA 2, REFTEL C) FOR A STATEMENT, WRITTEN OR ORAL, CONCERNING NORTHROP ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND. WE HOPE THAT GROSSENBACHER WILL UNDERSTAND THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT IS NOT ABLE TO COMMENT ON AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION BY THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH--AOR TO ENDORSE ANY STATEMENT HE MIGHT OBTAIN FROM NORTHROP, A PRIVATE CORPORATION.

2. ALTHOUGH WE AGREE WITH GROSSENBACHER THAT THE
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PUBLICITY ABOUT THE NORTHROP INVESTIGATION CAN POSSIBLY

AFFECT THE COURSE OF THE F-5 SALES PROGRAM IN SWITZERLAND,
THERE APPEARS TO BE NO SOUND ALTERNATIVE TO WAITING OUT
THIS INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITY AND ANALYZING DEVELOPMENTS
AS THEY SURFACE. IN THIS CONNECTION WOULD THE EMBASSY
PLEASE DISCREETLY DETERMINE WHETHER THE SWISS ARE
CONDUCTING THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION OF NORTHROP OPERATIONS
IN SWITZERLAND.

3. RE THE EMBASSY PROPOSAL IN REFTTEL A, THE DEPARTMENT
HAS ALREADY BEEN ASKED BY THE SWISS EMBASSY TO PROVIDE
SUCH PRIOR NOTICE-- AND HAS AGREED TO DO SO, IF
CIRCUMSTANCES SO PERMIT. BECAUSE MANY OF THE HEARINGS
ARE PUBLIC, HOWEVER, THE PRESS IS ABLE TO HAVE IMMEDIATE
ACCESS TO MUCH INFORMATION AS IT IS DEVELOPED IN
TESTIMONY. INGERSOLL

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